

## Response from 101 Organizations to University of Chicago President Zimmer

From: Tammi Rossman-Benjamin

**Subject: Re: 101 Organizations Urge Your Endorsement of the University Leaders Statement Against the Implementation of an Academic Boycott of Israel**

Date: December 19, 2018

To: President Zimmer

Dear President Zimmer,

Thank you for your response to the letter from our 101 civil rights, education, religious, student and faculty organizations. We appreciate your previously stated opposition to the academic boycott of Israel. However, in light of recent incidents at the University of Michigan and Pitzer College, in which faculty who support the academic boycott have, in the name of politics, inflicted direct and substantive harm on their own students wanting to study in and about Israel, we believe a stronger statement specifically addressing the boycott's harms to the educational opportunities and academic freedom of University of Chicago students is critical at this time.

You may be aware that a number of University of Chicago faculty members have expressed public support for the academic boycott of Israel. They sit in departments of Anthropology, Middle East Studies, Literature, etc., and several hold administrative positions within their respective departments and programs, including at least four department chairs and program directors. All of these departments and programs have academic missions that are supported by traveling to and studying about many countries in the world, including Israel. However, were the faculty boycotters affiliated with or heading up these departments and programs to go beyond verbal support for the academic boycott and actually attempt to implement the boycott at the University of Chicago — as faculty at the University of Michigan and Pitzer College did by refusing to write letters of recommendation for students wanting to study in Israel and attempting to shut down their school's official study abroad program in Israel — it would directly threaten the academic freedom and educational opportunities of students at your school.

University of Chicago students and other stakeholders are justifiably concerned about the very real prospect of faculty implementing an academic boycott of Israel that would unconscionably hold students' educational opportunities and rights hostage to an anti-Israel political agenda.

Therefore, we hope you will reconsider endorsing the [University Leaders Statement Against the Implementation of an Academic Boycott of Israel](#). Alternatively, you may want to consider issuing your own statement strongly condemning the harms that the implementation of an academic boycott of Israel will cause for students and faculty on your campus, similar to the attached [statement](#) signed by all 10 University of California Chancellors in response to our 101 groups' request. In particular, the UC Chancellors, who, like yourself, had each previously issued statements in opposition to the academic boycott of Israel, felt the need to firmly state at this point in time: "We believe a boycott of this sort poses a direct and serious threat to the academic freedom of our students and faculty, as well as the

unfettered exchange of ideas and perspectives on our campuses, including debate and discourse regarding conflicts in the Middle East.”

Thank you for your leadership and concern for the academic rights of students and faculty at the University of Chicago.

Sincerely,

Academic Council for Israel  
Academic Engagement Network  
Accuracy in Academia  
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity (AEPi)  
Alums for Campus Fairness - Columbia University  
Alums for Campus Fairness - National  
Alums for Campus Fairness - Swarthmore  
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Davis  
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Riverside  
Alums for Campus Fairness - UCLA  
Alums for Campus Fairness - University of Michigan  
AMCHA Initiative  
America Israel Cooperative Enterprise  
American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists  
American Council of Trustees and Alumni  
American Institute for Jewish Research  
American Jewish International Relations Institute  
American Truth Project  
American Zionist Movement  
Americans for Peace and Tolerance  
Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA)  
B'nai B'rith International  
BEAR: Bias Education, Advocacy & Resources  
Binghamton University Zionist Organization (BUZO)  
Bobcats for Israel at Ohio University  
Boston Israel Action Committee  
Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law  
Buckeyes for Israel (Ohio State University)  
Bulldogs for Israel (Brooklyn College)  
Campus Anti-Semitism Task Force of the North Shore  
Center for Righteousness and Integrity  
Christians and Jews United for Israel  
Club Z  
Coalition for Jewish Values  
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)  
Congregation Beth El Israel Committee  
CUFI on Campus  
Dartmouth Students for Israel

Davis Faculty for Israel  
Eagles Wings  
Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)  
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)  
Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors  
Hasbara Fellowships  
Hoos for Israel (University of Virginia)  
Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel  
Iranian American Jewish Federation  
Iranian Jewish Women's Organization  
Israel Allies Foundation  
Israel in NYC  
Israel Matters  
Israel Peace Initiative (IPI)  
Israeli-American Civic Action Network  
Israeli-American Civic Education Institute  
JAM  
Jerusalem U  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa (JIMENA)  
Knights for Israel (University of Central Florida)  
Mercaz USA  
Merrick-Bellmore Jewish Community Council  
Middle East Forum  
Middle East Political and Information Network (MEPIN)  
National Conference on Jewish Affairs  
National Council of Young Israel  
NCSY  
NH4Israel  
Oral Roberts University United for Israel Club  
Proclaiming Justice to the Nations  
Rabbinical Alliance of America  
Religious Zionists of America  
Rhode Island Coalition for Israel  
Roc4Israel  
Russian Jewish Community Foundation  
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East  
Simon Wiesenthal Center  
Slugs for Israel (University of California Santa Cruz)  
StandWithUs  
StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department  
Stop BDS on Campus  
Students and Parents Against Campus Anti-Semitism  
Students Supporting Israel at Chapman University  
Students Supporting Israel at City College of New York  
Students Supporting Israel at Columbia  
Students Supporting Israel at Drake University  
Students Supporting Israel at Penn State University

Students Supporting Israel at San Jose State University  
Students Supporting Israel at UC Irvine  
Students Supporting Israel at UC Santa Barbara  
Students Supporting Israel at UCLA  
Students Supporting Israel at University of Minnesota  
Students Supporting Israel National  
Students Supporting Israel of Santa Monica College  
Swarthmore Students for Israel  
The Israel Christian Nexus  
The Israel Project  
Tufts Friends of Israel  
WoMen For All  
Young Jewish Conservatives  
Zionist Organization of America  
ZOA's Fuel for Truth